***Statement***

*State-wise physical targets, financial allocation and amounts released to the State Governments for Coastal Shelterbelt Plantation projects under Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme during Ninth Plan*

(Amount Rupees in lakhs and Area in Hectare)

| S.No. | States | Ninth Plan Physical Target | Ninth Plan ' Financial Allocation | Amounts released as on 31.03.2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 2050 | 472.44 | 184.96 |
| 2 | Gujarat | 3900 | 415.00 | 415.00 |
| 3 | Karnataka | 200 | 55.58 | 42.65 |
| 4 | Kerala | 1000 | 408.59 | 264.85 |
| 5 | Orissa | 8000 | 1488.51 | 607.25 |
| 6 | Pondicherry | .448 | 90.32 | 20.12 |
| 7 | Tamil Nadu | 1000 | 308.70 | 184.55 |
| 8 | West Bengal | 150 | 30.02 | 23.82 |
| | TOTAL: | 16748 | 3269.16 | 1743.20 |

**Increase in forest cover**

2825. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to monitor increase in forest cover in the country;

(b) if so, the details of increase, State-wise; and

(c) if not, whether Government are thinking seriously to develop forest cover, in view of increase in pollution and less rainfall in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 using satellite imageries. As per latest State of Forest Report, 1999, forest cover in the country has shown an increase of 3896 sq.km in the period from 1996 to 1998. State-wise details of change in forest cover are given in enclosed Statement. *(See* below)

(c) Various steps taken to develop forest cover in the country are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations from their own resources **as** well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

***Statement***

*Comparative account of forest cover of Stales /UTs in 1997 and 1999 assessments*

| State/UT | 1997 Assessment | 1999 Assessment | Change (sq.km.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Forest cover (sq.km.) | Forest cover (sq.km.) | |
| 1 | *2* | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 43,290 | 44,229 | +939 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 68,602 | 68,847 | +245 |
| Assam | 23,824 | 23,688 | -136 |
| Bihar | 26,524 | 26,474 | -50 |
| Goa | 1,252 | 1,251 | -1 |
| Gujarat | 12,578 | 12,965 | +387 |
| Haryana | 604 | 964 | +360 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 12,521 | 13,082 | +561 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 20,440 | 20,441 | + 1 |
| Karnataka | 32,403 | 32,467 | +64 |
| Kerala | 10,334 | 10.323 | -11 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 131,195 | 131,830 | +635 |
| Maharashtra | 46,143 | 46.672 | +529 |
| Manipur | 17,418 | 17,384 | -34 |
| Meghalaya | 15,657 | 15.633 | -24 |
| Mizoram | 18.775 | 18.338 | -437 |
| Nagaland | 14,221 | 14.164 | -57 |
| Orissa | 46,941 | 47,033 | +92 |
| Punjab | 1,387 | 1.412 | + 25 |
| Rajasthan | 13,353 | 13.871 | +518 |
| Sikkim | 3,129 | 3,118 | -11 |
| Tamil Nadu | 17,064 | 17.078 | + 14 |
| Tripura | 5,546 | 5,745 | + 199 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 33,994 | 34,016 | +22 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| West Bengal | 8,349 | 8,362 | + 13 |
| A *A* N Islands | 7,613 | 7,606 | -7 |
| Chandigarh | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| DAN Haveli | 204 | 202 | -2 |
| Daman *&* Diu | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Delhi | 26 | 88 | +62 |
| Lakshadweep* | — | — | — |
| Pondicherry* | — | — | — |
| TOTAL : | 633,397 | 637,293 | + 3.896 |

*Afa *discernible forest cover.*

**Permission for modified Bt Cotton /seed**

2826. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to allow farmers to cultivate genetically modified Bt Cotton seeds which reportedly had the potential to dramatically improve crops, while cutting down the use of pesticides;

(b) whether the approval has been granted for a limited period only; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the broad parameters/conditionalitics laid down, if any, for growing any specific GM Cotton crop; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor and the present status of consideration?